

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 088508

EXDIS MILITARY HANDLE AS SPECATE EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT ATHENS 2770 ACTION SECSTATE APR 4

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2770

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TU, GR, CY, US
SUBJ: POLICY DECISIONS ON EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

REF: (A) ATHENS 2686 (B) STATE 085786 (C) ATHENS 2702
(D) ATHENS 2701

1. WHILE PAYING A COURTESY CALL ON MFA DIRECTOR
GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS TZOUNIS HE TOOK A CALL
FROM ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AVEROFF WHO HAD JUST
READ DEPARTMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT. AVEROFF WANTED
TZOUNIS TO EXPRESS TO ME HIS "DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT"
THAT STATEMENT HAD TAKEN NO ACCOUNT OF GOG SECURITY
CONCERNS WHICH AVEROFF HAD RAISED WITH ME MARCH 31
(REFTEL A).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 088508

2. BEFORE THIS TZOUNIS HAD REFERRED TO QUESTIONS
ALSO IN REFTEL A AS TO HOW WASHINGTON SEES THE
RENEGOTIATION OF TURKISH DCA PROCEEDING (SHAPE,
DURATION, FINANCING) AND HOW WE INTEND TO PROCEED
WITH THE DCA FOR GREECE. IN LATTER CONNECTION I WAS
ABLE TO DRAW UPON REFTEL B.

3. WHILE REFTEL B IS HELPFUL AS FAR AS IT GOES, WE ARE STILL UNABLE TO RESPOND TO CERTAIN SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED BY GOG AT AND SINCE MY INITIAL MEETING WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER. FOR EXAMPLE, PARA 4, PARA 6, PARA 8, PARA 11, AND PARA 12, OF REFTEL C. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE A REACTION TO PARA 13 OF REFTEL A.

4. I REALIZE IT MAY NOT PROVE POSSIBLE FOR DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE THE KIND OF REASSURANCE GREECE DESIRES - OR EVEN PERHAPS ANSWERS TO ALL QUESTIONS NOW - BUT I DID HOPE THAT CONSIDERATION WOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO INCLUDING IN LAST NIGHT'S ANNOUNCEMENT THE REQUEST MENTIONED IN PARA 1 ABOVE. IT WOULD HAVE HELPED AT LEAST TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SAY THAT IT WAS CONSIDERED BUT PROVED NOT POSSIBLE FOR WHATEVER REASON. FURTHER, I HAD HOPED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CALL ON AVEROFF WITH A RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST IN REFTEL D.

5. WE REMAIN PREPARED TO EXPLAIN, DEFEND AND ARGUE FOR OUR DECISION IN THE FACE OF A DISAGREEABLE LOCAL SITUATION. THE OMISSIONS NOTED IN EARLIER PARAGRAPHS AGGRAVATE AN EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED GOG WHICH HAS AN INTEREST IN MODERATING A MORE FEVERISH VOX POPULI AND POLITICAL OPPOSITION. EVEN A SMALL MATTER LIKE THE TIME AND PLACE OF OUR ANNOUNCEMENT HAS ADDED TO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 088508

PROFESSED GOG BEWILDERMENT SINCE IT WAS TOLD THAT THE STATEMENT WOULD BE MADE BY THE WHITE HOUSE AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S RETURN.

6. DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL PUBLIC STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT (EXCEPT FOR AVEROFF'S COMMENT TO THE NEW YORK TIMES, APRIL 2). I WAS REMINDED OF THIS TODAY BY TZOUNIS. WHAT IT WILL BE AWAITS THE ACTION OF CARAMANLIS, WHO IS NOW SCHEDULED TO RETURN APRIL 7. SHORTLY THEREAFTER I ANTICIPATE BEING CALLED IN INASMUCH AS I HAVE YET TO PAY MY INITIAL CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER. IN VIEW OF THIS I WOULD ASK THE DEPARTMENT TO TAKE A CAREFUL LOOK AT THE LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER WHICH I AM STILL HOLDING. AN UPDATING OF IT IN LIGHT OF NEW CIRCUMSTANCES COULD PROVE AN ACT OF SELF-INTEREST. MCCLOSKEY. UNQUOTE VANCE

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